

Chairs and Committee Members

My name is Kevin Lynch and I am the Pres of the Ct Alliance for Retired Americans, which represents 56,000 members statewide.

I have concerns about inadequacies in the Governor's ^{LTHA} plan. block grant program.

I am going to mention two of them. I will be brief on the

First: the funds allotted. If you assume a household ^{safetynet + home costs} qualifies for the highest benefit, they will receive approx \$4000. But ^{this group are truly pauperized and therefore small. The mass of} ~~Now assume~~ those in need will not receive anything like this amount.

How much will an "average household" need? we all know

there is no such thing because there are too many variables. How well is their home insulated? what kind/number of windows do they have? how is their hot water heated? How much space are they heating?

Do they have dual-zone thermostats? Is anyone bed-bound?

etc., etc.

We know for certain that ^{home} heating oil is presently selling for \$4.25 a gal and that the standard home oil tank holds 275 gals. So one delivery would cost \$1100. But how far will that go? You can't know.

What we cannot know is the effect of extremes. How secure

are deliveries from Nigeria? from Venezuela? Will speculators

drive up the cost again? Will this be a "bad" winter? or an easy one? Will it be a 1000 degree day winter? or a 5000?

Because this issue is of such importance and such immediacy

I beg you to err on the side of caution ^{and revised the} ~~in setting~~ the formula

Funding ^{and} guidelines in the LIHEAP Block Grant plan as stated on

Pg 4, Sect IV

More importantly, I want to call your attention to pg 2, Sect II, para 9, H, I and cross-reference those with pg 14, Sect XVII. These are the sections which deal with how ~~clients~~ eligible clients will be notified. Consider.

Taken together, these seem to cover all the bases. But here's
All those are old boilerplate; they've been being used for yrs.
The problem, there is no new way of reaching the impoverished
senior and low-income households suggested. They are going to do
^{other}
what they have done. And that's just not good enough.
because DSS estimates that they reach $\frac{1}{3}$ of the eligible
households. One third. Two out of three eligible households are
not being reached. That is not acceptable. You have to insist
that DSS use more ^{or} other contractors who will find new
ways to reach the target population.

I am not here to suggest what those ways will be, but
let me note just one method, a Pg 2, Sect II para I should be
cross-referenced to Pg 14. Sect XVII ("handouts" "in writing")
("... made available at DSS and (AA offices)")

And finally, please ask this question of DSS officials:
~~the plan's budget based on the assumption that~~ On what numbers
is the plan's budget based? The $\frac{1}{3}$ presently being served? Or the
 $\frac{3}{4}$ they know are eligible? last yrs caseload + 5%